

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter contained in claims 1-3, 6-7, 11-13, 15-16, and 20-25. Claims 5, 14, and 26-27 are cancelled.

Claims 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takeshi et al. (JP 7-320478). In response, Applicants amended independent claim 17 to clarify that the airflow-regulating member is positioned within 5mm of the boundary, and respectfully traverse.


Takeshi is cited by the Examiner as teaching an airflow-regulating member (isolation wall 7) for receiving and regulating airflow generated by disk rotation so as to prevent the airflow from flowing toward the actuator. However, Takeshi does not disclose or suggest having the isolation wall 7 within 5mm of the boundary, as now recited in amended claim 17. For this reason, withdrawal of the §102 rejection of independent claim 17 and its dependent claims 18-19 is respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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